

REMARKS:

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation that the Examiner indicates that claims 5 and 7-12 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the indefiniteness and new matter rejections. Applicants are amending independent claims 1 and 6 to remove the phrase: "directly and closely." Thus, claims 1-12 currently are pending and are subject to examination in the above-captioned patent application. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the above-captioned patent application in view of the following remarks.

In the Office Action mailed August 11, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Examiner also rejected claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Specifically, the Examiner asserts that the phrase: "directly and closely" is new matter and is indefinite. Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 6 to remove the phrase: "directly and closely." Therefore, the new matter and indefiniteness rejection of claims 1-12 is rendered moot.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,081,071 to Rogers. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, as follows.

Applicants' independent claim 1 describes an organic EL panel in which at least one desiccating member is provided within the cover on **the central area thereof** and separated from the organic EL laminated body. Moreover, a concave portion is formed on one surface of the desiccating member, and the one surface is orientated to **face the**

organic EL laminated body. Applicants' independent claim 6 includes method limitations substantially corresponding to the above-described features of Applicants' independent claim 1. For example, Figure 2A depicts an embodiment of the present invention in which desiccating member 18 is provided in a center area of cover 16, and desiccating member 18 is spaced apart from organic EL laminated body 15. Moreover, desiccating member 18 includes a concave portion 18A that is formed on a particular surface of desiccating member 18, and the particular surface of desiccating member 18 directly and closely faces organic EL laminated body 15.

In contrast to the present invention as set forth in Applicants' independent claims 1 and 6, Rogers merely describes that the desiccating members (desiccant and/or inert fluorocarbon 30, 31) are ring-shaped and arranged around the organic EL laminated body (EL device 13) along edge portions of the cover (11), as shown in Figs. 1-3. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's statement that Rogers' desiccating members are not at the edge of the cover or on the opposite side of the cover and, accordingly, are deemed to be located in a "central portion" of the cover (11). Rogers' Figures 1-3 clearly shows that there is nothing left on the center of the cover (11) before and after the cover (11) is bonded with the substrate (12).

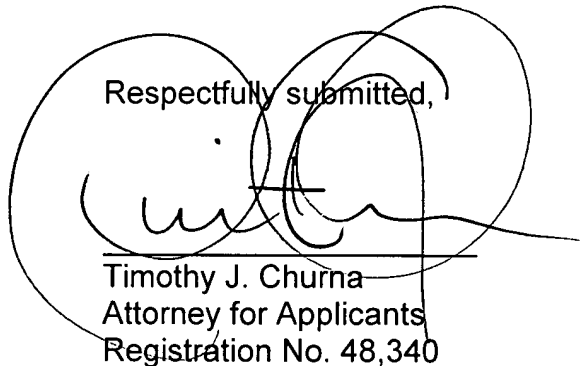
In addition, Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's statement that Rogers' desiccating members 30, 31 face downward from the top cover whereas the EL member sits on the bottom substrate, and the concave portion of the desiccating member, therefore, is deemed to 'face' the EL member. Applicants respectfully note that even if Rogers' desiccating member 30, 31 and seals 22, 23 are deemed to have formed some concave portions shown in Figures 1 and 2, such concave portions face

away from the EL device 13. Moreover, the hollow central portion of a ring-like member can not be considered a "concave portion," as set forth in Applicants independent claims 1 and 6. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the anticipation rejection of independent claims 1 and 6 at least for these reasons.

Claims 2-4 depend from allowable, independent claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the anticipation rejection of claims 2-4 at least for this reason.

CONCLUSION:

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-captioned patent application is in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that an in-person or telephonic interview with Applicants' representatives would expedite the prosecution of the above-captioned patent application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney of records. Applicants believe that no fees are due as a result of this response. Nevertheless, in the event of any variance between the fees determined by Applicants and those determined by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, please charge or credit any such variance to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, referencing Attorney Docket No. 107156-00231.

Respectfully submitted,


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